

APRIL 2023



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Written by Rev. Keisha R. Dukes

Happy April and Hallelujah season! According to our liturgical calendar, we have entered into Eastertide! In other words, Hallelujah, Christ is Risen!

What does this mean for the Christian faith?

According to Ephesians 4:22-23, it means we were taught to put away our former way of life, our old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and to clothe ourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Reflection:

I am reminded of a childhood game, “*Guess who?*” The opponent had to ask questions regarding the physical appearance to guess the person on your card. At times, the opponent thought they had your person figured out until they realized who they had in mind was not the same person.

Same with the resurrected hope of Christ, the opposing force to grace tried to entice our perspective by thinking they have the people of God figured out. However, we are a new creation through the resurrection of hope who are grace-filled and grace-led believers. In John 20, Mary did not recognize Jesus in the garden, suggesting that transformation is from the inside out within new creation.

As the opposition to God's grace tries to oppose God's transformative movement, let us continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ Jesus. (2 Peter 3:18) Let us transform from hatred to love, (1 John 4:8) war to peace, (Micah 4:8) disagreement to mutual respect, prejudice to acceptance, and foreigners to citizens. (Romans 15:7)

Let us embrace our “authentic self” in Christ. As Children of God, as the world keeps guessing who we are, just let them know, how we are by our love! (John 13:35)

The purpose of Richardson Park United Methodist Church is to help people experience the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.

Continued

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

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Application: We should adjust some of our spiritual practices this season to appreciate God's newness!

In UMC, *baptism is a "one and done"* act however *repentance is not!*

So let us begin our journey with repentance and forgiveness. (From God and to each other)

Increase prayer and devotional times.

Attend Christian education opportunities (i.e., Bible Study and Sunday School)

Connect in small covenant groups.

I want to leave a stanza from one of my favorite songs by Tremaine Hawkins, "Look at me."

"Look at me, I have been set free.
All my sins are washed away.
My nights turned to day, all because
Christ has set me free."

With Hallelujah Eastertide Blessings,

Pastor Keisha





United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

Although it is hard to believe, Spring has arrived! The days go by so quickly that we must use every moment to live as God would like—caring for our fellow people. This is one of the reasons our “United Women in Faith” meet and share ways to help other folks.

Our special Lenten service was held on March 12th after the worship service. We were transported back to Jesus' time, shared Bible readings and ate foods he might have enjoyed.

On March 12, the card box reappeared in the back of the sanctuary. Cards collected will be delivered or mailed to our shut-ins and the V.A. nursing home in Elsmere. I thank all of you for thinking of these folks.

Since Easter falls this year on the second Sunday of April, there will not be a meeting but be ready for a short meeting in May. We must decide if the group of wonderful ladies would like to continue to meet on the second Sunday of June, July and August. Please attend because we need your input!

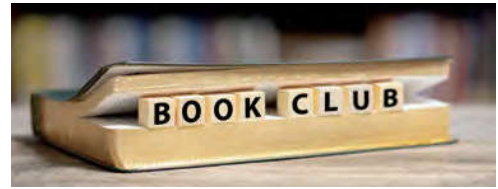
Now, my sisters in faith, April's assignment:

- 1.) Attend the church service of Palm Sunday
- 2.) Invite someone to the Easter Service on April 9 at 10:30 a.m.
- 3.) Show kindness!

A thought to Remember:

There is nothing but God's grace. We walk upon it; we breathe it; we live and die by it; it makes the nails and the axles of the universe —Robert Louis Stevenson

Blessings from Marlene



BOOK CLUB

BY PAUL WEAVER

On March 15th at 2 pm, we met at the church, hoping to have a Zoom call with Rev. Robyn Brown to discuss “Sam”. Unfortunately, some technical difficulties cropped up and we weren't able to “meet”. That meeting has been rescheduled for May 4th. Apologies to Rev. Brown and the club for the inconvenience and thanks for their patience and understanding.

In April, we will read “Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law” by Mary Roach and discuss it at our meeting on Friday, April 14th at 2 pm. On Thursday, April 20th, we will meet for dinner at Iron Hill at 5 pm, then head over to the Chase Center to hear Mary Roach.

Our May meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 12th at 2 pm at the church. I am suggesting that we read “Winter Garden” by Kristin Hannah for that meeting. We have enjoyed several of her books. I just finished reading “Winter Garden” and believe that it is the best of the bunch!

We will be reading “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus, “The Neighbor's Secret” by L. Alison Heller and “The Lies I Tell” by Julie Clark in the coming months. In addition, a number of our recent books have come from your suggestions; please keep those coming!



THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

BY MARLENE JOHNSON

April has arrived in Children's Church at RPUMC! Come and join us as we learn about Palm Sunday and Easter in Jesus' time.

Will experiments appear in the Discovery Center? What selections in the Bible will we read? Are we in the New Testament? Will we make more little booklets to take home and share with our families?

You must join us in the back of the sanctuary by 10:30 a.m. We will then go to the Youth Room. Then you will discover what excitement awaits!

I am look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Blessings from Ms. Marlene



TECHNOLOGY TIPS

BY JIM CHILCUTT

Should You Upgrade to Windows 11

If your computer currently runs Windows 10 you are probably getting notices from Microsoft to upgrade to Windows 11.

The upgrade is free so the software cost of upgrading is minimal as long as you don't need to upgrade apps. The main issue is will your computer run Windows 11. A good test to find out is to run windows update and security (Start/settings/update and security). Windows will determine if your computer can run Windows 11.

There are two major items which will stop an older computer from running Windows 11. The first is Windows 11 requires a security chip that is not in most older computers. The second item is the computer architecture itself. If you are running 32bit apps, it will be a problem. Windows 11 needs 64 bit apps.

The features on Windows 10 and Windows 11 are essentially the same but there are subtle differences in appearance. There is a short learning curve switching from 10 to 11. Here is a good link to check out for more information 10 Big Reasons Not to Upgrade to Windows 11 (PCMag); <https://www.pcmag.com/news/10-reasons-not-to-upgrade-to-windows-11>.

Finally, consider the following. First Microsoft will continue to support Windows 10 until October 2025, so you have plenty of time. Second if you convert and don't like it the upgrade can be backed out.

If there is a special topic you want to see, just send a note to rpumc@rpumchurch.org

BAGS OF BLESSINGS

DONATIONS NEEDED

Please donate "single-served" food items such as granola bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, 16 oz. water bottles, snack crackers, cookies, peanut butter, etc. in support of this important adjunct ministry to our Free Lunch program. Volunteers are needed to fill the Bags of Blessings which are given out at the Free Lunch Ministry on Thursdays. Any questions, please contact Kathy Rogers, Missions Chair



MEMORIAL TREE

BY GLENDA DONNELLY

Thanks to the great work of the Trustees and the BMG, we have a beautiful Memorial Tree to recognize all our loved families and friends who have passed.

Take a moment and stop by the Extension and see the Memorial Tree. If you are interested in adding a loved one's name to the Memorial Tree, there are forms located on the table near the Tree. Any questions, please contact Glenda Donnelly a call on (302) 998-5047 or call the Church Office.

Thank you. Glenda

PAPER RECYCLING CAN

Please be aware that effective 3/3/23, Richardson Park UMC is no longer participating in the Paper Retriever program and the collection container has been removed from the back parking lot. The initial objective of gaining a very small revenue stream along with a positive environmental impact, based on the reuse of clean paper, is no longer viable. We thank the many people who contributed to this program over the past several years! We welcome any new ideas for Sustainable Solutions that can be incorporated into the operations of the church. We will continue to look for ways to nurture and protect the people of our church, surrounding community and God's Green Earth. Thank you, Kathy Rogers

FREE LUNCH MINISTRY

BY JOE TUCKER

Free Lunch program is continuing every Thursday 11:30 am to 12:30 pm with a grab-n-go lunch. We deliver a hot lunch in a take-out container at the main door of the church. Each person also receives a bag of crackers, power bars, a bottle of water, cup of pudding, etc. Our group of dedicated volunteers work Wednesday morning preparing food and 'bags of blessings' to hand out on Thursday morning. We are averaging about 100 meals a week. Contributions of items are always accepted. Currently, Free Lunch is in need of plastic grocery shopping bags at this time.

Some church members pick up meals and deliver them to family and elderly neighbors. Thank you to all volunteers who help on Wednesday and Thursday to prepare and serve free lunch!! Thank you. Joe



ONLINE GIVING - TITHES & OFFERINGS

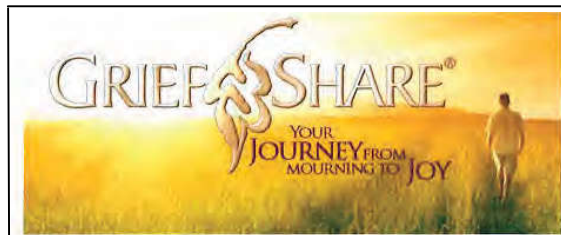
ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

Hello RPUMC Family!

We are pleased to announce that ONLINE GIVING is NOW Available! During this time of social distancing and quarantine, you can still support the work and ministry of Richardson Park UMC through your tithes and offerings by either sending them in the mail or now by giving online through our website!

(Click the "GIVING" tab on our website).

www.rpumchurch.org/html/giving.html



GRIEF SHARE 2023

GriefShare groups meet to help you face challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. (Griefshare.org) GriefShare meets once a week online via ZOOM from 6:30pm-8:30pm on Mondays. You are encouraged to join on any week. Sessions are self-contained. It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about the things you've never faced before. If you would like to participate please contact Judy Barker, GS/Director/Leader at (302-994-1939) Schedule of upcoming ZOOM online meetings:

Session 4	Mon, April 3, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 5	Mon, April 10, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 6	Mon, April 17, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 7	Mon, April 24, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 8	Mon, May 1, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 9	Mon, May 8, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 10	Mon, May 15, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 11	Mon, May 22, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 12	Mon, May 29, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 13	Mon, June 5, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Session 14	Closing Mon, June 12, 2023	6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Peniel Soup Kitchen
10:30 to 12:30—Every Friday
Pick Up Free Lunch—Goodie Bag For All

Looking forward to seeing all of our friends again. Please come everyone.



WELCOME!




Holy Land Tour Opportunities
 District Superintendent Archie authorized the following link from a local tour agent offering a variety of Holy Land tours for 2023.
<http://www.etstours.com/larue>


ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS
 Please remember that if you would like to dedicate altar flowers "In Honor of" or "In Loving Memory of" a loved one, please submit your order and donation to the church office at least one week before.
 Thank you.




The Shoppe at RPUMC
 The Shoppe at RPUMC will be open for shopping on Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



PROCEEDS BENEFIT MISSIONS/OUTREACH

Giant Rummage Sale
Saturday, April 15th
8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Housewares, small furniture items, children's toys, children's clothes, holiday decorations, sporting goods, tools, decor, accessories, baked goods, lunch and more.

Proceeds will support Neighborhood House, our youth mission trip and other church activities.

For more information, contact Nancy Hough, Rummage Sale co-chair, 302-593-7753 cell



Aldersgate UMC
 2313 Concord Pike,
 Wilmington, DE 19803
 (North Wilmington)

Pulled Pork Platter Fundraiser

Dine-in or Carry out

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 2:00PM -5:00PM

Pulled Pork
 Roll

\$15

Mac & Cheese
 Green Beans

Available
 Until Sold Out

Order ahead by
 calling the Church
 office @
 302-994-9519
 TO ORDER.

Peniel United Methodist Church

115 E. Market St., Newport, DE 19804

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble presents...



WHE Will Rock You!

Featuring some of the songs we've loved to sing and dance to for decades such as "Dancing Queen," "Stairway to Heaven," a Beatles medley, "Rock Around the Clock," and "Bohemian Rhapsody." We are coming to a location near you!

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble (WHE) is the only community based handbell ensemble in the Wilmington, DE area. We have two CDs for sale for your listening pleasure, "A Little Bit of Christmas" and "Theme Songs to Ring By." Both are available for purchase online and at our concerts.

To learn more about WHE, visit our website at www.wilmingtonhandbellensemble.org
 Donations welcomed; please use QR code.

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble is a sponsored ministry of St. Paul's UMC, Wilmington, DE.

Saturday, May 13 6:00 PM
 Hockessin United Methodist Church
 7250 Lancaster Pike
 Hockessin, DE 19707

Saturday, May 20 4:00 PM
Hands-on-Handbells 3:20 PM
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 1108 N. Adams Street
 Wilmington, DE 19801

Sunday, May 21 3:00 PM
 Joint Concert with First State Ringers
 Newark United Methodist Church

Sunday, June 4 3:00 PM
 Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church
 101 Old Kennett Pike
 Wilmington, DE 19707

Mr. Kerry W. Dietz, Artistic Director



New Al-Alon Meeting

Women's Al-Anon Family Group is an open meeting available to all women on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 525 Polly Drummond Hill Road, Newark, DE 19711. Please use the main front entrance of the church.

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relative and friends of alcoholics who share experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems.

If you have any questions please call 302-731-9495, Ext. 10.





April Birthdays



Dawn Davis	April	1
Paul Weaver	April	2
Robert Boyd	April	8
Edward Rash	April	9
Kelly Gibbons	April	11
Joan Stadelman	April	11
Marie Walker	April	11
Christopher Sutor	April	16
Amber Saienni	April	18
Richard Sutor	April	18
Julie Gibbons	April	19
Kiralyn Phillippe	April	20



Robert Boyd, Jr.	April	21
Katherine Burge	April	22
Robert Collins, Jr.	April	22
Howard Eney	April	23
Kathy Rogers	April	23
Linda Keffer	April	24
Jennifer Swarter	April	24
Trisha Parks	April	25
Shirley Delpizzo	April	27
Debbie Freebery	April	27
Daniel Swain	April	29

Note: If your name is not listed on our birthday list, please call the church office.



**Richardson Park
United Methodist Church**

**Join us for prayer,
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Every Tuesday Evening

PRAYER CALL LINE


**Confrencece number (605) 468-8733
Code: 6102741#**

LINE OPENS AT 5:45 pm

*"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.
When he finished, one of his disciples said to him,
"Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
~ Luke 11:1*



Keisha R. Dukes, Pastor

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling begins her new podcast.

Thursdays at the Table

Asking good questions, engaging in deep conversation and telling the whole truth can change the world. In her new podcast Bishop LaTrelle Easterling invites you to join her for Thursdays at the Table as she is joined by leaders from across the connection, serving up new insights and interesting ways of experiencing our lives together.

New podcasts are the first Thursday of each month. Tune in **April 6** for the next podcast.

You can join at 8 a.m. or listen any time on: Spotify, Apple Podcasts or at pdcbbc.org/thursdays-at-the-table.html

Delaware District Board of Laity

The Delaware District Board of Laity currently has 2 volunteer positions open. They are in need of a secretary and treasurer.

For more information contact:

Rosalyn Harris rorz1948@aol.com
Karen Jones kbstigers@gmail.com






FYI: The United States Postal Service increased the price for a regular letter from 60¢ to 63¢.



Note: The IRS Mileage Rate for 2023 has been set at 65.5¢ per mile.

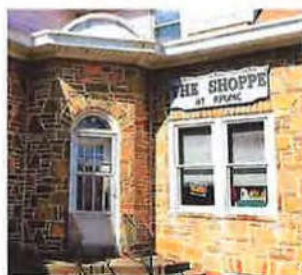



APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 ALL FOOLS' DAY 11AM-2PM OPEN First Saturdays' - The Shoppe at RPUMC Cub Pack 339 - Hike
2 PALM SUNDAY 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	3 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. - FH 6:30PM-8:30PM Grief Share Session 4 - Zoom	4	5 6:30PM Scout Board Mtg. - Lounge	6 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	7 GOOD FRIDAY 12 NOON Good Friday Service - at RPUMC 	8
9 EASTER SUNDAY 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM UWIF Mtg. - Ext.	10 NO Cub Pack 339 Mtg. 6:30PM-8:30PM Grief Share Session 5 - Zoom	11	12	13 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	14 2PM Book Club - Lounge	15 11AM Koinonia - Ext. (covered dish)
16 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church 11:30AM Trustees Mtg. - Lounge	17 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. - FH 6:30PM-8:30PM Grief Share Session 6 - Zoom	18	19  Messenger Deadline Articles Due	20 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH 5PM Book Club dinner - Iron Hill 7PM Speaker Mary Roach - Chase Center	21	22 EARTH DAY 
23 NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church	24 6PM Cub Pack 339 Mtg. - FH 6:30PM-8:30PM Grief Share Session 7 - Zoom	25	26 ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY	27 9AM BMG - EXT. 11AM-2PM -The Shoppe at RPUMC 11:30AM-12:30PM -Free Lunch - FH	28	29
30 9AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship & Children's Church						

The Shoppe at RPUMC, Parsonage and Annex will be OPEN for shopping on Thursdays' from 11AM-2PM and First Saturday this month of April.

**COME ON OUT AND SHOP
FIRST SATURDAYS' AT
THE SHOPPE AT RPUMC**
April 1st | 11 AM-2 PM
**PRE-LOVED GOODS
DISCOVER GREAT FINDS**



 [@rpumchurch.org](https://rpumchurch.org)
proceeds benefit
missions/outreach



EASTER LILIES



The Easter lilies are given to the Glory of God and

In Honor Of

Our children and grandchildren and great grandson by Ed and Sandy Ide

Jerry Paoli by Ed and Sandy Ide

Sons Frank, Kyle and Corey by Paul Weaver

Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren Zach, Evan, London, Marlee and Mason by Paul Weaver

Mary Alice Bair by Nancy, Vince, Allie, Emma and Nick Perugini

In Loving Memory Of

Effie M. LeFevre by John and Olga Maloney

Nevin and Anna Mae Shewbrooks by Leslie and Bill Lacombe

Lillian and Clifford Sayles by Barbara Sayles

Audrey and Francis Rash by Susan Watkins

Dwight Rash by Susan Watkins

Loretta and Joe Watkins by Susan Watkins

Brian Schieferstein by Ed and Sandy Ide

Frank, Agnes, and Edna Ide by Ed and Sandy Ide

Ralph, Bea and Skip Bennett by Ed and Sandy Ide

Marie Bennett and Sue Housel by Sandy and Ed Ide

Joyce Collins by Bob and Karen Collins

Melvin and Lillie Collins by Bob and Karen Collins

Rick Cleaver by Bob and Karen Collins

Art and Marie Hoch by Bob and Karen Collins

Cpl. Christopher Shea by Bob and Karen Collins

Joyce and Jerry Toy by Bob and Karen Collins

All who have passed in our family by Bob and Karen Collins

Clarke and Richard Powell by Lee Powell

Shirley L. and C. Robert Godfrey by Bob Truitt

Roberta C. and Carroll A. Truitt by Bob Truitt

Ruth T. Gibney by Lynn and Bryant Lafferty

Leonard Gibney by Lynn and Bryant Lafferty

Johnson and Gertrude Bair by Nancy, Vince, Allie, Emma and Nick Perugini

In Memory and Honor Of

Family and Friends by Bob and Phyllis Thomas

Calvin and Elva Boyce by Jennifer Boyce

Calvin Boyce, Jr., by Jennifer Boyce





RICHARDSON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11 NORTH MARYLAND AVENUE
WILMINGTON, DE 19804-1305
Office: (302) 654-0961
E-Mail: rpumc@rpumchurch.org
Website: www.rpumchurch.org

Rev. Keisha R. Dukes, MDiv
E-Mail: pastor@rpumchurch.org
Office Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Boyce



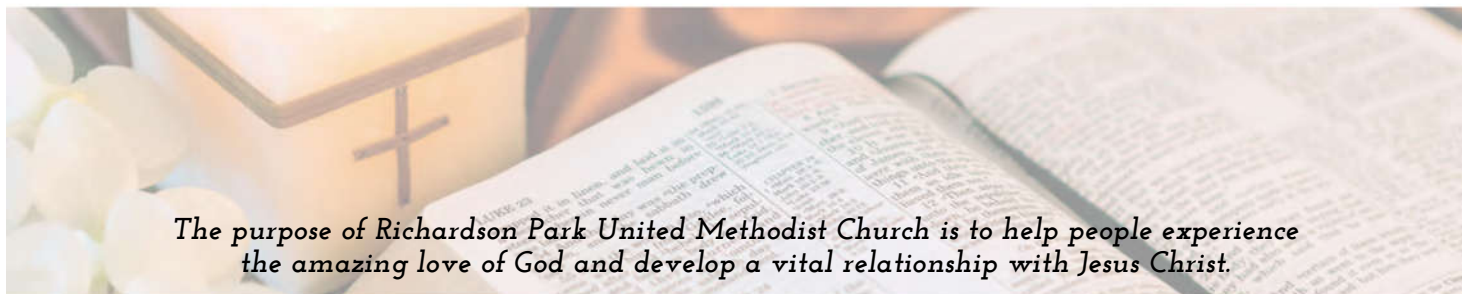
In-Person and **Live Streaming** Sunday Worship Services at the following sites:

rpumchurch.org/html/streaming_service.html or Facebook at: facebook.com/rpumchurch

Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.
Fellowship Time.....9:40 A.M.
Worship and Children's Church.....10:30 A.M.



Please have articles and information for the May Messenger to the Church Office by Wednesday, April 19th. Remember to submit all announcements for the Sunday Bulletin no later than Wednesday. Email to: rpumc@rpumchurch.org Thank you! ~Jen



The purpose of Richardson Park United Methodist Church is to help people experience the amazing love of God and develop a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.